
STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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Memorandum

To: Members of the General Assembly
From: Beth H. Henkel, Commissioner, Department of Local Government Finance
Date: March 24, 2003
Re: March 2003 Reassessment Survey Results

Attached is a copy of the March 2003 survey that we have compiled on a county-by-county basis for your information. This document will soon be available on our website at www.IN.gov/dlgf/ under 2002 Reassessment.

The survey shows that most counties are steadily progressing in the reassessment. Another tangible sign that several counties are nearly done is that ten have submitted equalization studies for Department approval. This step marks the final stage in the reassessment process. We have approved eight as of this writing. Another 38 counties report they will seek Department approval of their studies in April.

Nonetheless, only a few counties report that they will complete the final certification process in time for billing in May this year. Twenty-four counties report that they will not have the 2002 assessed values completed for rolling to county auditors until after June 2003, which means their billings may be delayed until November. Department staff will meet and confer with county officials in these counties of concern to lend assistance in the reassessment and funding process.

If no tax bills go out this year, many taxpayers will be socked with double bills next year. Lake County senators and representatives have been instrumental in recognizing a need for counties that are struggling with the reassessment process to have a means to issue property tax bills based upon last year's rates. Representative Kuzman authored **House Bill 1219** for this purpose, which swiftly passed the House. The Senate Finance Committee heard **HB 1219** this week and approved it, with some amendments, as "Do Pass." We are grateful to the members of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees for swiftly addressing this bill. They recognize that it may be one of the most important bills for the General Assembly to consider this year.

The current version simplifies the process of the original bill, and many more counties are considering its use. We ask members of the General Assembly to consider this important bill as a means for counties to alleviate the problems arising from delays in reassessment.